

California Children and Families Commission

Bill Analysis

SB 390 (Escutia)

Introduced: February 21, 2001

Hearing Date: Not set for hearing as of March 8, 2001

Sponsor: California Child Care Resource and Referral Network
and Child Care Law Center

Subject: State Master Plan for Child Care and Development Programs

SUMMARY: SB 390 requires the California Department of Education (CDE), in consultation and collaboration with specific state agencies, local governments, the **California Children and Families Commission, California Children and Families County Commissions**, and others to develop, by January 1, 2003, the State Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services. Furthermore, SB 390 entails the formation of an oversight commission, which also includes the CCFC, to regularly meet for production of the plan.

POSITION AND SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS: **SUPPORT** When CCFC discussed the scope of work for the Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University: School Readiness Component, the Commission supported focusing on birth to five, which would not include all school-age programs. The Commission discussed their support, however, for a complimentary process to make recommendations for other age groups.

This proposed Master Plan, in addition to addressing child care and development concerns for all children, will detail a plan that specifically addresses issues such as child care subsidies, including streamlining eligibility procedures and increased access to subsidized child care.

Additionally, this proposed Master Plan is very much in line with the Commission's focus on improving systems for families through integrated, accessible, inclusive, and culturally appropriate services as well as improved child development—ensuring that children are learning and ready for school.

BACKGROUND: According to the Child Care Law Center, a co-sponsor of the bill, SB 390 is an attempt to integrate systems for child care and after school programs for children in California through the creation of a master plan that is updated once every five years. As also indicated by the sponsor's office, SB 390, though not prescriptive about the outcomes of the Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services, primarily deals with the process of creating the plan.

Existing Law:

Charges the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop the state plan for child care and development services in collaboration with prescribed agencies, and also requires CDE to coordinate the state plan with the State's Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services.

Legislative History:

SB 925 (Vasconcellos, 2000) would have required an advisory committee, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services and the State Department of Education, to develop a proposed state master plan for child care and development services. This bill was returned to the Secretary of the Senate without being heard in committee.

AB 105 (Alquist, 2000) would have required the Little Hoover Commission, in consultation with prescribed state agencies, to develop a state master plan for child care and development services subject to the appropriation of funding. This bill died in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 845 (Escutia and Vasconcellos, 1999) would have required CDE, in consultation with prescribed state agencies, to develop a child care and development master plan. SB 845 would have also declared the intent of the Legislature and specify specific strategies to expand child care capacity, provide sufficient funding for subsidized child care, make child care available to all eligible families, improve the quality of child care available, and expand opportunities for early childhood education. This bill died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 1348 (Vasconcellos, 2000) would have required the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Secretary for Education, to submit a proposal to convene a summit regarding the advisability of developing a master plan for parenting education in non-school settings. This bill was vetoed by Governor Davis.

Specific Findings: Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDE, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services, the Secretary for Education, the **California Children and Families Commission**, local planning councils, **County Children and Family Commissions**, resource and referral organizations, child care provider organizations, child care and development researchers, local governments, children's advocates, parent labor and faith-based organizations, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Child Development Policy Advisory Committee, to develop a Master Plan on the child care and development needs of families and local communities in California.
- 2) Requires that the Master Plan will serve as the basis for the state plan required under federal law (federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990).
- 3) Requires that the Master Plan:
 - Identify broad state-wide policy goals regarding universal high-quality, affordable child care and development services for every California family.

- Ensure access for children to education programs enhancing school readiness, and make recommendations for the enrichment of the education environment for infants, toddlers, prekindergarten children, and school-age children in out-of-school programs.
 - Make recommendations for streamlining eligibility procedures for child care subsidies.
 - Recommend methods for coordinating and increasing access to services such as nutrition, violence prevention, mental health services, etc.
 - Reflect current research and best practices as well as cultural and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities.
 - Develop strategies to maximize recruitment and retention of culturally-sensitive teachers and caregivers.
 - Develop strategies for ensuring high-quality, affordable child care for all infants and toddlers.
 - Include strategies targeted to underserved children and communities.
 - Recommend a plan assuring high-quality, affordable after-school care, linking after-school programs and public schools.
 - Identify child care and development services needs and gaps and areas of cooperation among state and local agencies to work on specified gaps.
 - Assess financial resources for child care, and develop efforts to mitigate deficiencies, fully utilize federal, state, and local public funds, and review alternate financing mechanisms.
 - Develop strategies that ensure high-quality, affordable child care for families receiving, as well as not eligible for, subsidies.
 - Estimate high-quality child care costs based upon elements such as system infrastructure, adequate reimbursement rates, and adequate wage rates.
 - Review data on child care availability and develop strategies to build capacity in all neighborhoods, promoting parental choice.
 - Include a process for recommendations and further development by stakeholders.
- 4) Ensures public input and participation by including:
- Stakeholders on the oversight commission
 - Commission members representing organizations indicated in specific finding # 1
 - A minimum of 20 public hearings
 - Outreach efforts to obtain input from underserved communities
 - Language accessibility for non-English speaking participants
 - A process for solicitation of input beyond public hearings
- 5) Requires completion and submission of the Master Plan to the Legislature by January 1, 2003.

- 6) Requires CDE to update the plan, using the public input process, at least once every five years.

Comments: The primary difference between this plan and the Master Plan CCFC has committed to participate in is the scope of the project. The Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University is a comprehensive educational plan for California. In leading one of the seven workgroups for the Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University, CCFC will lead the School Readiness component workgroup that focuses on issues relating to children 0 to 5.

The proposed State Master Plan for Child Care and Development Programs, as prescribed in this bill, will serve as the basis for the federally required state plan. This Master Plan will focus broadly on children 0-12, with a significant part of the plan detailing the integration of child care systems and increased quality, accessibility, and affordability of out-of-school programs for school-aged children. The proposed Master Plan will also include specific recommendations regarding child care subsidy eligibility requirements and increased access to quality subsidized child care.

FISCAL IMPACT: No information yet on record.

PROS/CONS

Pros:

- Provides an opportunity for County Commissions to work on statewide child care and development service issues.
- The content issues as delineated in the Master Plan reflect the Commissions' *Objectives and Priorities* as well as *Results to be Achieved*.
- This Master Plan is an in-depth look at the child care system and could compliment the Master Plan for Education: School Readiness Component.

Cons:

- This bill would require a serious time and work commitment by State Commissioners (and staff) appointed to the oversight commission and assigned to the Master Plan development. CCFC is not currently staffed for this activity.
- Possible duplicative work by State Commissioners and staff due to involvement on the Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University currently in progress.
- The addition of another advisory commission for a second master plan effort might prove confusing to the public, and to members of the CCFC and County Commission communities.
- Coordination between this proposed Master Plan and the Master Plan for Education—Kindergarten through University has not yet been discussed.
- The language in SB 390 consistently emphasizes “affordable” high-quality child care, an approach that is problematic due to the inherent challenges in assuring quality child care at an affordable price. Additionally, the bill does not define what “high-quality” child care is.

- The focus of this bill does extend beyond that of the Commission's scope of work, including deliberation on, and a plan for, after-school programs for children up to 12 years of age.
- In order to perform the requirements of this bill, CDE needs adequate funding and personnel not currently provided.

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION: No information yet on record.
CDE has no official position as of 3/8/01.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: SUPPORT SB 390

COMMISSION ACTION: SUPPORT

DATE: 3/15/01

SIGNED: Patti Huston